Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** A dental assembly, comprising: a ceramic [[A]] spacer ~~(3) preferably made entirely of ceramic~~ and ~~with~~ an adapter ~~(4)~~ for securing the positions of the spacer in ~~the~~ a lateral direction and ~~the~~ a direction of rotation relative to an implant ~~(1)~~, said adapter comprising first and second portions ~~(4b, 4c) designed~~ wherein the adapter is configured to cooperate with the spacer and the implant, respectively, to secure the spacer relative to the implant and wherein ~~to achieve said securing, characterized in that,~~ when the spacer is in its position fitted on the implant, the adapter is completely enclosed by the spacer and the implant, and ~~in that~~ wherein the first portion ~~(4b)~~ of the adapter ~~is~~ additionally ~~designed~~ comprises ~~in accordance with one or both of the following alternatives:~~

~~a) with~~ at least one slit ~~one or more, preferably two, slits (4d, 4d'), preferably extending in the longitudinal direction of the first portion and arranged~~ configured to give the first portion resilient properties ~~which effect or take part in the securing of~~ to secure the adapter to the spacer~~, and/or~~

~~b) with penetrating parts (4e) which, when the adapter and the spacer are joined together, cause a deformation in the material contact surfaces~~.

2. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly ~~spacer with adapter~~ as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1, wherein ~~in that~~ the spacer, with the adapter applied to it, bears via a bottom surface ~~(3a)~~ against a top surface ~~(1a)~~ of the implant, and ~~in that~~ wherein the adapter enclosed in the spacer

and the implant is exposed to the outsides of the spacer and of the implant only via a gap ~~or interface~~ located between the bottom and top surfaces, and ~~the arrangement, for example a~~ wherein the assembly comprises a locking screw ~~(5),~~ for securing the spacer to the implant.

3. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first portion ~~(4b) is arranged with a limited longitudinal extent, for example~~ has a length of about 1/3 to about 1/5 of the total length ~~(L)~~ of the adapter, and ~~in that~~ wherein the spacer has a coned portion~~, for example a cone (3d), which can be~~ directed towards the implant and which has a ~~low height (H), for example a~~ height which is about 1/3 to 1/5 of the total height ~~(h)~~ of the spacer~~, which permits a guide surface (la) placed high up~~.

4. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in Claim 1, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in claim la, 2 or 3, characterized in that,~~ in the position in which the adapter is not joined to the spacer, the first portion has a geometry which exceeds the geometry of a corresponding recess in the spacer so that, when the spacer and the adapter are moved into the joined position, ~~the~~ parts ~~(4b', 4bff)~~ of the first portion can be pushed inwards resiliently ~~and effect a securing function in the assembled position~~.

5. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in claim la, 2, 3 or 4, characterized in that~~ said at least one slit ~~or slits (4d, 4d')~~ ~~extend~~ extends along the whole extent of the first portion and into parts of the second portion ~~(4c)~~.

6. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in claim 4, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that~~ said at least one slit ~~or slits extend~~ extends along about half of the total length of the adapter.

7. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in any of claims 1 – 6, characterized in that~~ the first portion has a polygonal external cross section~~, for example a hexagonal cross section~~.

8. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in claim 20, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in any of claims 1 – 7, characterized in that~~ the penetrating parts ~~consist~~ comprise of the corners of ~~the~~ a polygon which are deformed in rounded corners in a corresponding configuration in the spacer.

9. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in claim 20, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in claim 7 or 8 characterized in that~~ the penetrating parts ~~consist of~~ comprise ~~forwardly or laterally~~ projecting parts, for ~~example flange parts,~~ which are deformed against ~~in~~ an opposite surface ~~or surfaces~~ in the spacer.

10. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in any of claims 1 – 9, characterized in that~~ the second portion ~~is provided with~~ comprises outwardly projecting members ~~(4a, 4a', 4b') designed~~ configured to fix it in the direction of rotation relative to the implant.

11. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in claim 10, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that,~~ in cross section, the outwardly projecting members comprise substantially semicircular members which can be placed opposite corresponding recesses ~~(4a)~~ in the implant.

12. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in claim 11, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in claim 9, 10 or 11, characterized in that~~ the outwardly projecting members are three in number and are uniformly distributed about the circumference.

13. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as claim 12, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in any of claims 1-12, characterized in that~~ the at least one slit ~~or slits extend~~ extends through ~~one, two or all of~~ at least one of said projecting members.

14. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in any of claims 1 – 13, characterized in that~~ the spacer and the adapter are configured such that they can be released from one another in the assembled state and can be joined again to one another ~~or to another~~ spacer or adapter ~~with a corresponding assembly function/geometry~~.

15. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in any of claims 1 – 14, characterized in that,~~ when the spacer is in its position fitted on the implant, the adapter takes ~~up~~ a position which ~~is essentially~~ substantially unaffected in the longitudinal direction of the adapter.

16. **(Currently amended)** The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein when the adapter is in a ~~spacer with adapter as claimed in any of claims 1 – 15, characterized in that, in its~~ position enclosed by the spacer and by the implant, the adapter cannot be acted upon in the longitudinal direction of the adapter and cannot be acted upon by lateral forces or bending forces.

17. **(New)** The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein the adaptor includes penetrating parts that are configured such that when the adapter and the spacer are joined together, a deformation occurs in material contact surfaces between the adaptor and the spacer.

18. **(New)** The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein the adapter includes a plurality of slits.

19. **(New)** The dental assembly as in claim 1, wherein the at least one slit extends in a longitudinal direction with respect to the adapter.

20. **(New)** A dental assembly comprising a ceramic spacer and an adapter for securing the positions of the spacer in ~~the~~ a lateral direction and a direction of rotation relative to an implant, said adapter comprising first and second portions wherein the adapter is configured to cooperate with the spacer and the implant, respectively, to secure the spacer relative to the implant and wherein when the spacer is in its position fitted on the implant, the adapter is completely enclosed by the spacer and the implant, and in that the first portion of the adapter is additionally comprises with penetrating parts which are configured to deform when the adapter and the spacer are joined together.